The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news economic and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor currently in the industrial, legislative, and judicial field, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 2012 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 44

Give to Your Community Chest!

Don't Underrate Your Plumber When It Comes to Book Learning

By DAN SMYTH

Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—To most Americans, affected by the cartoon and movie comedy influence, the word "plumber" suggests an illiterate fellow in greasy overalls, with dirt under his fingernails, who shows up for work with all his tools except the right ones.

It would have been an eye-opener for them to have attended the fourth annual educational conference just concluded by the Plumbers Union, Local 130 (AFL), which represent. 4,200 journeymen and apprentice mechanics in the Chicago area.

They would have seen several hundred neat and orderly gentlemen in business suits, who quietly through two days of up-to-date instruction on such subjects as U. S. social security, industrial law, the proposed new Chicago building code, new developments in heat irrigation, sewage disposal, water purification and training of apprentices.

Each day was begun with prayer and a patriotic ceremony. At the close of the conference diplomas were awarded to 210 apprentices who had completed three years of training, and were eligible for journeyman status. The AFL endorses supplemental academic study for apprentices under the federal training program.

The conference was held in the Plumbers Hall, a magnificent two-story building at 1340 W. Washington Blvd., wholly owned by the local, and free of lien. Among those who attended was Martin Kennelly, mayor of the city.

Carl B. Lindblad, president of the Plumbing Contractors' Association of Chicago, credited the union with leading organized labor in the construction field in the field of education. The group and the union negotiated a new contract last June, which raised the wage rate to $2.45 an hour, highest ever paid to plumbers in this area. The plumbers also have a welfare and pension fund to which both the workers and the employers contribute.

Byron Dunn, head of the Chicago steamfitters' union, another speaker, warned against the building code which has been proposed before the City Council to replace the existing code.

The steamfitters have lead the fight against revision of the code, on the ground it would raise fire prevention standards principally by allowing substitutes for plaster in walls and ceilings. Dunn also said the new code would hurt the plumbers too, as well as the steamfitters.

A management engineering firm engaged by the city administration to suggest streamlined methods of enforcing the code has proposed the 14 plumbing inspectors now employed in the building department be replaced by all-round inspectors, who would examine electrical, sheet metal and other installations as well as plumbing.

If that happened, Dalton said, the experienced plumbers now doing the inspecting, would be replaced by collar-and-necktie men who have nothing but little practical knowledge of plumbing, electricity or any other field of building construction.

W. D. Mahon, Veteran Labor Pioneer, Dead

Vice President of AFL, Street Car Men's Past President Succumbs

Detroit.—William D. Mahon, 88, seventh vice president of the American Federation of Labor and past president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, died October 31 in the Grace Hospital, Detroit.

His death after a long illness ended the life of the veteran labor leader who once said:

"My only hope is that when my life's work is done and I am laid away I will have earned the epitaph: 'He tried his best.'"

AFL President William Green said that Mr. Mahon had earned the epitaph. He and other AFL leaders praised Mr. Mahon for his more than 55 years' service for his own union and the AFL.

Funeral services were announced for Friday, November 4, at the Hamilton Funeral Home, 3976 Cass Ave., Detroit.

Mr. Mahon's life spanned the fabulous era of progress in the development of the nation's street railway and motor bus transportation from horse-drawn cars to high-speed subway and surface lines.

His efforts were bitter hard but successful attempts to keep the working conditions and wages of the men progressing as fast as the technological advances of the companies for whom they worked.

How fully "Billy" Mahon realized his objective existed in the almost complete organization of the men and women who work for the transit systems in the nation's metropolitan areas, their high standards of employment, hourly wages more than 6 times as great as when he started, and generous death and other benefits paid by the union.

Mr. Mahon was born Aug. 12, 1861, in a small town near Zanesville, Ohio, the son of a tanner. His father died while he was a boy in school and he was immediately forced to take a position in the Muskingo Valley coal mines. There he learned to drive mules, an accomplishment which qualified him for a driver for the street railway company in Columbus, Ohio, a few years later.

Young Mahon immediately became interested in improving working conditions. Drivers were paid for a 15-hour day; 7 days a week. They received $1.50 per day. They worked every morning for duty, waited around sometimes whole days before getting a trip, and were liable for car damage and loss of lights in event of accidents.

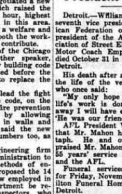
Mahon became president of the local union he helped to organize—Division 268 Union of Street Railway Employes, affiliated with the AFL. He met Samuel Gompers in conventions and their meeting began a close association which lasted until Mr. Gompers' death in 1924.

Mr. Mahon at 23 was elected president of the Amalgamated Association at its second convention in 1893 and served for 33 years until his retirement in 1946. He was paid $16 a week as first president and had his office in his home.

He was first elected to the AFL executive council in 1917, served in 1918 as Fraternal delegate to the British Trades Union Congress and made a study of the effect on employes of municipally-owned transit systems in Europe. He was a member of President Wilson's first industrial conference and served six months on the Detroit Street Railway Commission.

His interests were gardening and fishing.

The words for his epitaph, Mr. Mahon suggested at a gathering of long-time friends in 1947, educational, scientific and public leaders in 1907



WILLIAM D. MAHON

arranged by Mrs. Potter Palmer, queen of Chicago society. One of the speakers at the dinner was Colonel August Belmont, the New York financier, who told of the welfare work among drivers and conductors of New York's street railway lines.

"We have built a clubhouse containing a gymnasium," Mr. Belmont recounted. "There are pool and billiard tables, and a fine swimming bathroom."

Mayor Mahon in his turn emphasized the need for shortening working hours, increasing wages and eliminating intolerable conditions for the men. Gompers then delivered the address of the evening.

"The street car men do not want charity," he said. "They want justice in their homes, not only for themselves but for their wives and babies as well.

"I would rather go down to my grave as poor old Bill Mahon, without a penny to leave to my children, and leave a legacy behind of the improved conditions of the street railwaymen of the country, than to have all the wealth of Rockefeller and Carnegie, all the wealth of my friend Belmont, and die like a pig, and not have done a thing."

The only hope is that when my life's work is done and I am laid away I will have earned the epitaph: 'He was our friend.'"

Rents Up Again as Living Costs Take Sharp Rise Higher

Washington. — Residential rents continued their uninterrupted steady increase in September as the cost of living took its sharpest upward jump since last March.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the retail prices of goods and services for moderate-income families in cities advanced one-half of 1 percent between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15. This matched the largest monthly increase of 1949 recorded last March.

Rises in food were eight-tenths of 1 percent; fuel, electricity and refrigeration nine-tenths of 1 percent; household furnishings four-tenths of 1 percent; miscellaneous goods and services three-tenths of 1 percent; rents four-tenths of 1 percent. Clothing declined two-tenths of 1 percent.

The over-all consumers' price index on Sept. 15 was 169.6 percent of the 1935-39 average. This was 3 percent lower than a year ago but still 27 percent higher than in 1941 and only 72 percent above August 1939.

The rise in food prices wiped out the back to the level of last June and the increase in clothing for all income groups wiped out the declines of two to four months.

But there was NO change in the trend of residential rents. These have been moving upward monthly for more than five years. The rise may NOT been so sharp as in some of the other groups in the index, but it has been unbroken. Economists say the end of the two-year housing cost increase is tremendous housing shortage still exists and because federal rent controls are virtually gone, with both conditions tending to push rents upward.

Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods predicted earlier this week that the 1949 housing set he had ended rent increases for good this year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said this trend was continuing upward.

With anticipation of more general decontrol, the bureau has increased the frequency of its rent survey," the bureau revealed.

"In the three-month period ending Sept. 15, higher rents were obtained in 19 of the 11 cities surveyed. Rents declined in 2 cities, were unchanged between June and September with most of the rises following September collection on Aug. 5. Between August and September, rents in Houston, Tex., rose 2.4 percent in addition to increases of controls to become effective Oct. 19."

AFL GROUP GREETS BRITISH UNIONISTS

New York.—The AFL Free Trade Union Committee fed 11 British Trade Union Congress leaders on their arrival for a 6-week tour to study productivity techniques used in various industries.

The AFL group was headed by Committee Chairman Matthew Woll. AFL vice president, hosted the lot at a luncheon extending greetings in the spirit of Samuel Gompers, late AFL president. Johnson, a member of the AFL international labor relations staff.

Lewis Hines, special representative of AFL President William Green, told the British delegation that the AFL "considers productivity in the crucial fight to preserve individual liberties and to promote peace and extension of free trade unions and free enterprise." Hines is sponsor, director of the AFL Workers' Education Bureau, established in the organizational set-up.

The British delegates guests of the International Garment Workers Union on a visit to the Empire State Building, Dr. Leo Price, head of the center, personally conducted the group through every department of the ultra-modern building, explaining the work and benefit of the members of the union.

Among the attendants at luncheon included David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and a member of the AFL International Labor Relations Committee; Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union; Max Rosen, vice president of the New York State Federation of Labor; Moe Rosen, vice president, and Jesse Quinn, secretary-treasurer of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York; Howard McDougall, general counsel; Joe Brennan, secretary-treasurer of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York; Joseph Hovey, union president United Garment Workers; William Collins, secretary-treasurer and executive director of Labor; Frederick F. Umbey, secretary-treasurer, International Ladies Garment Workers; Jay Lovestone, executive secretary of the AFL's Free Trade Union Committee; Charles Zimmerman, general manager of Local 22 and vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers; Charles Kreindler, manager, Local 89, International Ladies Garment Workers Union; E. J. Volz, president, Building Service Employes Union.

The British group will visit New York, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Washington.

TWO ORGANIZERS RETIRE

Atlanta.—Paul J. Aymon, Chattanooga, Tenn., and James F. Barrett, Asheville, N. C., veteran organizers for the American Federation of Labor in the southern territory, have retired, the Southern AFL office announced.

Green Opens AFL Push For Increased Housing

Asks Central Unions to Put Their Full Weight Behind Big Program

Washington.—President William Green opened the big new AFL push to get a minimum 15,000,000 homes built in the next 10 years, and to keep effective rent controls until the supply of low-price housing units can be considered adequate.

Mr. Green sent a letter to all central labor unions calling their attention to the housing program adopted by the 68th AFL convention in St. Paul and urging them to mobilize their full support for its realization.

"I urge each central labor body if it has not already done so, to establish a housing committee," Mr. Green wrote. "Because the AFL Housing Committee will be in constant contact with these questions, I would appreciate it if you would notify Harry C. Bates, chairman of that committee, of the name of the chairman of your local committee. In addition, Mr. Bates as vice president would like to be kept informed on AFL activity on housing in your community."

Mr. Green quoted from the convention statement on housing:

"Recent developments in the field of housing have made abundantly clear that AFL unions must maintain particular vigilance in these matters during the coming year.

"The most practical method of such vigilance and activity is through community-wide activity by local trade unionists. In particular we urge each central labor body to establish a housing committee.

"These housing committees would have the following functions: (1) To take an active interest in all public housing and slum clearance projects under the new (1949 housing law; (2) To follow developments in rent control and seeing that the interest of union families is protected; (3) To stimulate interest in labor's entire income housing program."

Mr. Green pointed out that the convention declared the role of central labor unions and inclosed copies of the convention action on housing.

AFL Labor Needs Still Unfilled For Low Rent Housing

Washington.—The needs of 8,000,000 AFL members for decent low-cost and low-rent housing are greater and unmet after more than 15 years of depression, defense, war and postwar prosperity.

That's why the AFL's 68th convention adopted a policy for a new housing national housing program next year.

Here are the highlights:

Middle Income Housing

The personal housing problems of the great majority of trade union members in the American Federation of Labor will remain unsolved by the 1949 public housing legislation. What is needed is legislation to cover the housing needs of so-called 'middle-income families.'

"Forty percent of American families have incomes of more than $2,000 and below $3,750. These families find themselves in a position where they cannot afford the homes being constructed by private builders but at the same time their incomes make them ineligible for any of the low-rent housing units to be constructed under the new law.

"The time has come when housing legislation must turn to fit the needs of this middle group.

15,000,000 Homes Needed

"The housing production record of private building industry still leaves us with an accumulated shortage of at least 10,000,000 homes and with a minimum annual need of 15,000,000 homes to be built within the next 10 years; 8,000,000 families in the United States are living in homes overcrowded and substandard housing conditions.

Public Housing

"The fight for public housing and slum clearance is not yet over. The time when we shift to the various cities and localities throughout the country which wish to construct public housing projects or slum clearance and redevelopment operations.

"It is clear from past events that local real estate interests will do everything within their power to thwart and frustrate attempts by citizens generally to secure adequate housing for their communities.

"We urge the central labor bodies to take an active interest in housing matters affecting their local community so that labor's victory in the legislative field will not be dissipated in the form of fewer blighted areas but rather completely those where the great majority of the nation's families live.

Rent Control

"Although the law which passed Congress this year was in some respects a step forward, the maximum rent control statutes it did contain the most inadequate and inequitable under which rent control has been compelled to operate in hundreds of communities across the nation.

"In a number of cases, this has been the extreme hardship to families of trade union members. In city after city, Dallas, for example, after decontrol, rents rose up to 380. percent above former levels.

"This convention does NOT wish to see the present rent control system in effect any longer than is absolutely necessary. However, until the supply of low-price housing units can be considered adequate, effective rent control must be maintained so that families will not be faced with exorbitant increases in rent."

Rents Rise 19 Percent With Government Okay

Washington.—Six months' operation of the 1949 housing act resulted in average apartment increases of 19 percent in 350,000 units and decontrol of 2,250,046 other houses, apartments and rooms.

This report from Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods points up some of the AFL reasons for insisting on continuing rent controls and a housing program to meet the needs of the people.

Woods said he granted 178,000 petitions for rent increases averaging $6.90 per month between April 1 and October 1. Approval was given to 98 percent of the requests for rent increases.

Tobin Offers Help On Wage-Hour Law

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin offered the assistance of his department to workers and employers to help understand the new wage-hour law amendments which go into effect January 25.

Tobin said the minimum wage into law by President Truman raise the minimum hourly rate from 75 cents an hour, further restricts child labor and increases the workers' ability to collect underpayments of the minimum wage. Unfortunately, it removes some workers from its protection in the form of so-called 'exemptions' to the law.

Pointing out that the new amendments go into effect January 25, Secretary Tobin said:

"It is vital during the intervening time employees and employers alike will carefully study the new provisions of the act to ascertain their rights and responsibilities. I offer the assistance of the Department of Labor."

He said the law will increase workers' purchasing power and protect employers who pay decent wages "from unfair competition by those who pay substandard wages."

Requests for information about the law may be addressed to the Labor Department in Washington or its field offices, Mr. Tobin said.

SEES METAL TRADES AID

Geneva.—The International Labor Office said in a report prepared for its Metal Trades Committee meeting November 9-19 that "the restoration of metal trades industry in participating countries to and above their pre-war production levels is important to the future prosperity of Europe, The AFL is represented on the ILO Committee.

FEED 'EM APPLES

Washington.—The Department of Agriculture reported that apples will be plentiful in Second and Atlantic and be an economical addition to workers' lunches, or they may be used in a variety of ways in home meals.

Growth of Cooperatives Can Forestall Depression and Inflation, Voorhis says

St. Paul.—The nation can escape depression and inflation if 15 to 20 percent of its business is conducted through cooperatives.

That is the belief of Jerry Voorhis, former California Congressman and executive secretary of the Cooperative League of America, who addressed the 68th AFL convention.

"If we can build cooperative membership to a point where 15 percent of the nation's business is done on the cooperative plan, the competition of cooperative enterprise would be able to prevent either a serious deflation or a severe depression from ever taking place again," Voorhis said.

He said that with that number of people in cooperatives it would be possible to break the stranglehold of any monopoly in this country.

"Cooperatives exist for just one purpose: to give to the purchase economic power as citizens, to draw them together for the meeting of common needs, and to enable them to have something to say about what is produced, how much is produced, and the quality and price of goods and services," Voorhis said. "If the bargaining power of consumers is brought into their cooperatives, can be made great enough, then we can retain control from the dangers of economic collapse in any time in the future."

Voorhis said that if only one-quarter of organized labor joined with a good percentage of other people in cooperatives, the rest of the people in the country could have an economy that was fairly proof against the ups and downs of the business cycle.

He said cooperatives are asking no special favors from the government in tax exemptions. He said any business, including cooperatives, should pay income taxes on their earnings.

On the other hand, he said, if it suffers a loss or doesn't make a profit it doesn't pay a tax.

Voorhis said cooperatives have reduced the cost of insurance as much as 40 percent in many lines; made electricity available to millions of people where it was not available before and at a fraction of former interest rates; and brought electricity to rural areas for the first time.

Shishkin Calls For Trained Unionists To Fill U. S. Foreign Service Positions

St. Paul.—The AFL was asked to establish in cooperation with top universities a program to train labor specialists for foreign service for the United States.

The proposal was made by Boris Shishkin, AFL economist-author, who serve as director of the European labor division of the Economic Cooperation Administration. Mr. Shishkin brought greetings to the 68th AFL convention Ambassador-at-Large W. Averell Harriman in Paris.

Mr. Harriman said in a statement read by Mr. Shishkin that the trade union movement in America is a full partner in shaping and executing this country's foreign policy.

The Economic Cooperation Administration, Mr. Harriman added, cannot be successful so far only because of the services rendered by the American labor movement and the AFL in particular. And the record during the years of the program can be a success only if the American trade unions can continue the labor information so essential to restoring Europe.

Mr. Shishkin said that the whole program is succeeding chiefly because of the enthusiasm with which the European Recovery Program is the first line of defense against world aggression and against the undercover efforts of Russia to set up a new world dictatorship.

He said the American Federation of Labor to make provision, in cooperation with one of the universities, for a program of training for foreign service of trade unionists.

The training program will be called upon to serve the foremost interests of the people of the United States and of the freedom-loving people of the world," Mr. Shishkin said.

"The European Recovery Program and, with it, the great economic recovery of Europe would not be the reality it is today if it were not for the sweeping support of this program by the trade union movement in the United States and the leadership of the American Federation of Labor in gaining its enactment and its full and effective execution," he said.

Ford Thanks Green For Chest Support

Washington.—AFL President William Green will received thanks from Henry Ford 2nd, chairman of the 1949 Community Chest Drives, for the American Federation of Labor's endorsement of these local campaigns.

"Your cooperation and that of the members of the American Federation of Labor is highly valued by Community Chests throughout the nation," Mr. Ford said.

Hundreds of AFL members served in local Chest campaign offices this year. Most of the drives are now nearing completion. There is time to make a contribution to your local Chest which supports Boy and Girl Scouts, hospitals, Salvation Army, clinics, family services and other agencies.

Ohio 'Labor' Paper Lacks AFL Approval

Washington. — The scalled "Ohio Labor News" published at Columbus, O., lacks American Federation of Labor approval.

The paper is NOT on the AFL list of "labor" approved by the executive council and any use of the name "labor" is unauthorized.

Secretary - Treasurer Phillip Hannah of the Ohio Federation of Labor said copies of the publication containing "quick-fixing" Sen. Robert A. Taft are stuffed into employes' pay envelopes.

"We won't find a trade unionist in Ohio touching it with a 10-foot pole," Hannah said.

Ask Truman To Open Gompers Centenary

Washington.—President Truman will be asked by the American Federation of Labor's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL.

Mr. Truman was asked to be the guest of honor and speaker at a memorial dinner in the Hotel Statler here on January 3 opening an entire year of celebrations by the AFL and its constituent bodies.

The invitation was extended in a letter signed by AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany.

Mr. Truman assured them that he considered it a pleasure possible to accept the invitation. AFL leaders are confident he will be able to work it into a busy schedule in connection with the reconvening of congress.

The dinner will direct attention to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers on January 27. Plans are to broadcast some portions of the program over a nationwide radio hookup.

It is the first event planned by the special committee on Samuel Gompers' Centenary set up at the 68th AFL convention.

"We propose to make 1950 a year in which every American from the mere school child to the old-age pensioner—will know that Gompers' powers fought and devoted his life to attain most of the good things that our children and aged enjoy," the convention said.

International unions, state and local federations were asked to plan for reaching the objective.

In connection with the centenary, state federations are preparing organizing drives to gain new and/or new members for the AFL next year as a memorial to Mr. Gompers.

The over-all celebration is in charge of a committee headed by AFL Vice President Matthew Woll. Other members are Harry C. Bates, David Dubinsky, Paul Dalzell, Richard J. Gray, President Green, John F. Fry, George M. Harrison, William L. Hutcheson, Charles J. MacGowan, Secretary Meany, I. M. Ornburn, James C. Petrillo, Daniel J. Tobin, Richard F. Walsh and Max Zaritsky.

Union Industries Price Scores a "Hit" in Capital

Washington.—The full-color sound film produced by the AFL Union Industries Show held in Cleveland last May scored a solid hit with top officials of the federal government at a showing here.

The film entitled "Democracy on Display" film was exhibited at the industrial center by AFL Labor Attache Price J. Tobin in the Departmental Auditorium. AFL President William Green and Undersecretary of Labor John W. Gibson were present.

Mr. Green told the several hundred persons present that the record of the AFL will prove that it has made a tremendous effort to bring about successful labor-management cooperation and that the aims, purposes and objectives of the AFL are diametrically set forth in the Union Industries Show so ably guided by I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Industries Show Corporation.

Mr. Ornburn said he is "highly pleased" with the reception accorded by the Washington audience. He said the film would be shown successively to millions of people at union meetings and in theaters throughout the country.

Local unions interested in showing this exciting film of AFL members producing goods with pride should write to Mr. Ornburn, Room 202, Cooperative Federation of Labor, Washington 1, D. C.

GARMENT WORKERS VISIT UN

New York.—Demonstrating labor's support and appreciation of the job of the United Nations, more than 500 members of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union visited a plenary session and inspected UN headquarters building.

PASS 1,000 BILLS

Washington.—The first session of the 81st Congress passed 1,000 bills out of the 9,000 introduced in the Senate and 6,332 in the House.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

VOTE!
The Date Is
NOVEMBER 8

AFL Offers Strong World Labor Pact

Would Make New Trade Union International Power for Peace

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor offered proposals to strengthen the draft constitution of the new international trade union organization to make it the most powerful world labor body ever established.

The changes favored by the AFL to be considered at the London organization meeting beginning in London Nov. 28, would:

1. Proclaim the right of all peoples to full national freedom and self-government and demand that conditions be created for the realization of this right at the earliest possible moment wherever it is not yet enjoyed.

2. Establish a powerful and effective international organization of free trade unions whose policies and activities are decided by their freely constituted organizations and not determined in any manner by any external forces such as governments, employers or political parties.

3. Seek universal recognition and application of the rights of free trade union organization and unfettered collective bargaining.

4. Encourage development of the resources of all countries and particularly of under-developed countries and the still non-self-governing territories.

5. Support a world system of collective security and, pending attainment, support all measures necessary for assuring the defense of world democracy and the freedom of nations against totalitarian aggression, and particularly regional agreements as are provided by the Charter of the United Nations.

Submitted by Green

These are the principal changes submitted by AFL President William Green in a letter to the preparatory commission on the establishment of the new world labor organization.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany pointed out that the proposals are subject to compromise and negotiation at the London meetings. He said the AFL reserved the right to discuss all of the constitutional provisions and suggest changes.

The AFL changes would pledge the "International Federation of Free Trade Unions" to "changing the cause of human freedom, oppose totalitarianism in any form, tendency or shape, and combat directly or indirectly totalitarian aggression and give solidarity and support to all working people deprived of their rights as workers and human beings by totalitarian oppressive regimes."

The AFL said it is especially interested in the regional machinery proposed by the constitution.

The changes suggested by the AFL incorporate the principles for a new international trade union federation enunciated by Mr. Meany at the preparatory meetings last June. They were (1) to meet and throw back the threat of totalitarianism; (2) to reverse the international trade union body completely from big power politics; (3) to draw in the international trade secretariats; (4) to create a body which will embrace not only Europe and America but also South America and Africa.

The new international of free trade unions will be governed by a congress that will meet every two years, a general council which will meet in the year between the sessions of the congress, and an executive board which shall meet not less than four times a year.

Green Heads AFL Group

Mr. Green and Mr. Meany headed the AFL delegation picked to attend the London organization meeting. It was the most powerful ever assembled in the 69 years' history of the AFL to attend an international session. The party included eight members of the majority, of the AFL executive council.

In addition, many other important AFL officials in Europe planned to attend the sessions.

The impressive group of leaders from the AFL pointed up the significance of the AFL's attitude toward the new world labor organization as a factor working for and keeping world peace.

Mr. Meany called the meeting the "great hope of workers everywhere" to make peace and freedom secure.

KENTUCKY FEDERATION ELECTS A. C. KAISER

Louisville.—The 45th convention of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor elected A. C. Kaiser, Louisville business agent for the Hod Carriers Building and Common Laborers' Union, as president for a full term. He had been acting president since the death earlier this year of Harry J. Fenly.

Edward H. Wetzel, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Terms of other officers were reduced from four to two years.

CO-OP HOUSING TO START

Detroit.—Ground will be broken before January 1 for the first 64 units of the 500-family Schoolcraft Gardens cooperative apartment development. Units will rent from $63 to $83 the first 18 months and then drop to $57 to $74. The project utilizes AFL building trades labor.

Foreign Trade Policy Helped Employment

Washington. — U. S. foreign trade policy has provided an added stimulus to employment in the export industries, the AFL told the congressional committee on the economic report.

"Imports of foreign goods have had no appreciable overall adverse effect on domestic employment," the AFL said. "Since European Recovery Plan payments are now probably past their peak, it seems likely that the greatest effect of the foreign aid program upon the domestic economy has already been felt, and no direct added stimulus to domestic employment can be expected.

"However, if this country is to contribute substantially to the general expansion of world trade, it must maintain a high and growing level of employment and demand in order to provide a market for the products of other nations."

Two AFL Members Win Year at Oxford

Bronxville, N. Y.—John Connors (center), director of the AFL Workers Education Bureau of America, lunches with Roy McLean Ziemann (left), Madison, Wis., and George C. Allen, San Mateo, Calif., before the two leave for a year's study at Ruskin College, Oxford University in England. The two AFL rank-and-filers won labor scholarships established by the late Ernest Bevin, British labor leader, administered by Ernest Davis, Great Britain's foreign secretary. Connors is a member of the selection committee headed by Dr. Harold Taylor, president of Sarah Lawrence College. Ziemann, former student at the University of Wisconsin, is a truck driver for the Gateway City Transfer and a member of the Teamsters Union, Local 443. Allen, former student at San Francisco State College, is a member of Watchmakers Union, Local 101.

Invite Truman to Gompers Dinner

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, left, and President William Green leave White House smiling after receiving President Truman's assurance he will attend the Samuel Gompers' memorial dinner on January 3 in Washington's Hotel Statler "if engagements and work permit."

Union Helps Store Increase Accounts

New York.—Local 9 of the Retail Clerks International Association of the AFL won 4,300 new accounts for the John Wanamaker department store chain by a combination of window and space for a union-established library of books on labor-management subjects.

AFL Pushes Plans To Honor Gompers

Washington.—AFL leaders pushed ahead with detailed plans for celebrations throughout 1950 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

The centennial observances will begin on Jan. 8 with a dinner at Hotel Statler here which President Truman is expected to attend. Mr. Truman told AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that he will be present if possible.

The AFL officials are completing details for this gathering and other events to commemorate the birth of Mr. Gompers on Jan. 27, 1850.

In connection with the year-long observance, state federations will conduct an organization drive to win one million more members and will establish special Gompers' memorial exercises.

AFL Helps Latin-American Labor Clean Out Communists and Improve Conditions

St. Paul.—The AFL helped Latin-American trade unions in the past year to clean out Communists, fight oppressive reactionary government interference in their affairs, and improve working conditions.

This progressive report was submitted to the AFL's 68th convention by Serafino Romualdi, AFL representative for Latin-America.

Romualdi listed progress from 17 organizations in 22 countries and five-teral delegates from 11 other organizations at the Inter-American Conference of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers held in Havana last September. This was a substantial increase since the federation was organized by the AFL at Lima, Peru, in January 1948.

Romualdi said the infant organization had broken the Communist grip on Cuba and Mexico, and had established itself in Paraguay, British Guiana, Trinidad, Santa Lucia, Virgin Islands and Ecuador.

"The Communists are through in Mexico; they are through with the Mexican labor movement for good," Romualdi said. He said as for Cuba, "since the stronghold of communism in the Western Hemisphere," the best proof that communism is dead there is shown by the establishment of headquarters of the Inter-American Federation in Havana.

"The most important point we have emphasized has been the need to improve the conditions of the wage earners south of our border in order to raise their standard of living," Romualdi said. "Although Latin America with its 20 republics does not offer a uniform picture, in practically every country the working population is still condemned to a miserable existence, in some cases far below the subsistence level."

He called low wages the "curse of Latin America" because they have led to economic stagnation, prevented expansion of markets and kept down purchasing power.

"By helping 150,000,000 Latin Americans to increase their purchasing power we prepare the ground for an expanding foreign market for our own surplus industrial products," he pointed out.

AFL Gives Congress Proposals For High-Wage Employment

CIO 'Ain't' as Big as It 'Claimt'

Washington.—The CIO claims 6,500,000 members. But it just doesn't have them.
Who says so? The CIO.
The CIO convention in Cleveland voted to raise per capita tax from 8 to 10 cents per member per month. (The AFL tax is 3 cents per member.) News reports say the CIO increase will bring in $1,000,000 additional income per year.
By simple arithmetic, 12 cents more per year will bring in $1,000,000 a year more, then the membership is around 4,000,000 members.
That exploded the mythical CIO membership claims.

AFL Bars Any Halting Of Wage-Rate Raises

Washington.—In a clear-cut statement on wage policy to Congress, AFL President William Green said "there is an apparent trend to slow down increases negotiated by free collective bargaining. Should this trend at this time."

Mr. Green made the statement in reply to a question from the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report which asked: "What do you believe would be the effect of a fourth round of wage increases on the level of unemployment?" Following is the text of Mr. Green's important statement, read by Mr. Meany:

"There is a large element of fallacy in the whole popular concept of 'rounds' as applied to wage negotiations, insofar as it implies that a more or less sudden and uniform upward impetus is applied to wage levels generally at a certain period each year. Wage negotiations are a continuous and decentralized process, and their results are determined by a complex of factors that vary from situation to situation, from time to time, and from industry to industry.

"The term 'round' as the question seems to imply an element of progress that does not in fact exist. Wage negotiations and settlements have been taking place all year, practically every day in the year, and long great majority of settlements have involved well-earned and justified wage increases, with no adverse effects on the movement or the soundness of the economy. As for more recent weeks, a survey by the Bureau of National Affairs of more than 175 wage settlements reported for many different industries during the two-week period ending September 15 revealed that only 2 cases involved decreases, about 50 cases involved no change, and one-half did provide for additional benefits or for later reopening on wages, and in the remaining 145 cases, substantial wage increases ranging up to 30 cents an hour, were granted.

"Reduced to essentials, the gist of the opinions expressed by the main body of business economists' and labor leaders' statements seems to be that a 'far-sighted' and 'responsible' wage policy is one which foregoes a wage increase during a period of business recession or a rise in inflation, and accepts a wage decrease during a period of depression in order to reduce the cost of production. Needless to say, we are not impressed by the logic of such arguments.

"Insofar as any statistical observation can be made in answer to the question, it can be said that the economy in which wages, living standards and conditions of employment steadily advance and improve is the most conducive to sustained high-level employment. There is no apparent reason why this process of improvement in the welfare of the working service of William B. Mahon, who passed from our midst on Oct. 31, 1949, at the age of 73 years.

It has been said that a man lives as long as his work lives after him. It is true, William D. Mahon will live long in the hearts of his own organization on both local and international levels from the time of its creation. Indeed, he will exert an influence from official responsibility in his own organization just a few years ago. He continued to serve as a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor—to which he was first chosen in 1917—until his death, hence, his influence will continue to be felt in shaping the policies of our entire movement for years to come. He served with a breath to relinquish service to his own organization, the Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, Inc.

We have indeed lost not only a valued member of the American Federation of Labor—we have lost a friend. We are grateful that he lived to see the beautiful fruits of the labor for his own members, and to know that his life's work was not in vain.

William D. Mahon and the example which he set as a labor statesman will challenge loyalty to the trade union movement and inspire dedication and determination to make life better for those who labor in the years to come as an impressive memorial to a life well spent.

18,000 GET PAY RAISE

Washington.—Army, Navy and Air Force employes in this area are covered by Civil Service received a 6-cents-an-hour increase as the Department of Defense's wage board. Most of the 18,000 employes affected are members of AFL unions.

More Funds Needed to Cut Industrial Work Accidents

Washington.—Industrial workers are being killed and injured by management appropriations to eliminate on-the-job accidents. How little money is voted is shown in this comparison of the leading causes of death between 20 and 65 made by the Division of Labor Standards:

Cause	Loss In Work Years	Federal Funds
Cancer	1,040,000	$14,300,000
Heart	1,680,000	16,075,000
Accidents	1,750,000	100,000

Artists Withdraw Injunction Action

New York.—The American Guild of Variety Artists withdrew its suit for an injunction in New York State Supreme Court against the American Federation of Musicians which was filed in connection with a jurisdictional dispute between the two organizations.

The guild's action conformed to a request made by AFL President William Green before the 69th AFL convention in St. Paul. Mr. Green explored the seeking of an injunction by one organization against a sister union and appealed to the guild to cease and desist from following that course.

Mr. Green restated the policy of the AFL "to settle our jurisdictional disputes by the full facility of labor."

Withdrawal of the injunction petition and refunding of $50 initiation fees and dues to Lee Norman, a bass fiddle player, opened the way for a peaceful settlement by negotiation between the two unions.

The dispute involves the jurisdiction over artists who both play musical instruments and also perform.

Green Praises W. D. Mahon

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

WILLIAM D. MAHON
1867—1949

For more than 58 years the trade union movement of America had the benefit of the sage counsel and the energetic service of William B. Mahon who passed from our midst on Oct. 31, 1949, at the age of 73 years.

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Green Outlines Steps to Create Jobs, Boost Economic Levels

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor has submitted to Congress proposals for high-wage full-employment prosperity.

The economic statement was sent by AFL President William Green to Chairman Edward J. Hart of the subcommittee on unemployment of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report in answer to questions submitted to Mr. Green.

The statement made these principal points:

1. The current economic situation has materially improved since last summer.

2. Present unemployment involves an appreciable degree of waste of manpower and potential production as well as individual hardship.

3. The aim should be to maintain an economy in which all who are ready, willing and able to work can find the type of employment for which they are best fitted in a relatively short period of time.

4. Long-run prospects of beneficial effects on domestic employment and production as a result of the foreign aid program will hinge on the ultimate realization of its basic aims—the expansion of trade, the elevation of world living standards, and the development of backward areas.

5. An economy in which wages, living standards and conditions of employment steadily advance and improve is the most conducive to sustained high-level employment. There is no apparent reason why this process of improvement should be halted at this time and it can only be relied upon to go forward under free collective bargaining.

6. A national system of unemployment insurance and a national unified system of free public employment offices should be established.

7. The entire national tax structure should be revised completely to make it conform more closely to equitable tax principles; there can be no excuse for placing heavy tax burdens on low income groups except in a period of threatened or actual inflation.

8. Government policy regarding labor standards needs to be strengthened, not weakened. Coverage of the wage-hour law should be extended and minimum wages raised. The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act revised upwards promptly.

9. The government should aid areas in distress because of unemployment or pronounced lack of industry in such areas resources and by encouraging industry to locate there.

The AFL position on the current job and economic situation was outlined in answer to 11 questions submitted by Mr. Green by Representative Hart.

Mr. Hart asked for the written statement since public hearings have been postponed "because of the improvement in the general economic situation in the past few months." Mr. Hart added that the AFL statement "will be of assistance" in framing legislation for final report to Congress early next year.

Senator Reaffirms Health Act Stand

Washington. — Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey issued a statement answering charges that the AFL-CIO medical health insurance which AFL officials said recently has Truman administration's position in support of the Senator's health bill.

Senator Humphrey pointed out that he is co-sponsor of the administration bill providing national health insurance and that portion of it had been acted upon favorably during the past session of Congress. He said the most controversial part" is that setting up a national health insurance system.

"One of the big problems of such a system is the lack of administrative personnel, he said.

"Since problems of administration are also involved and been forced by ill health to relinquish service to his organizations, the Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America Inc.

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